

they don't have deep pockets or corporate connections.

But the Brennan Center for Justice found that public financing doesn't just increase the socioeconomic diversity of candidates for public office, it also boosts racial and gender diversity.

That is why I introduced an amendment to H.R. 1 to include an assessment of the impact on candidate diversity in the required report to Congress on the new public financing program, and I am grateful that my colleagues voted to pass my amendment.

This is personal for me because I firmly believe that we can have a Congress that looks like America if we just give people a fair shot.

I became the first woman and the first person of color to represent my district because I refused to be counted out as unelectable in my own community. I know that women and people of color are electable everywhere. No seat in Congress should be deemed out of reach for certain types of candidates.

When everybody has a fair shot, all candidates are electable, and small donor public financing gives people that fair shot. Small donor public financing and the other crucial reforms in H.R. 1 would make our representative democracy both more representative and more democratic. In other words, it would make America more American, aligning our system of government with our highest national values.

So I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass the For the People Act with the small donor public financing program intact and help America live up to our values.

REMEMBERING MARINE CORPORAL JEFFREY STANDFEST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Marine Corporal Jeffrey Robert Standfest, a St. Clair County native who was killed while serving his country 11 years ago today.

Corporal Standfest was only 23 years old when an IED struck and killed him and his K-9 partner, Sergeant Rupert, in Afghanistan.

Like all of our fallen heroes, Jeff was not just a soldier in war. He was a son, a brother, a nephew, a grandson, and a friend. A star runner at St. Clair High School, Jeff was an all-American kid who loved his country and followed in the footsteps of his grandfather by serving in the Marine Corps. This is who he was, and this is how he will be remembered.

I recently introduced bipartisan legislation to rename the St. Clair County Post Office after Corporal Standfest. Renaming this post office would serve as a permanent reminder of his selfless service to our country. To his friends, family, and loved ones, it will demonstrate that the United States will

never forget his bravery and ultimate sacrifice.

It is the courage of Corporal Standfest and all of those who have worn the uniform that protects the freedoms we hold so dear.

Today, on the anniversary of his tragic death, I hope all of those who knew and loved him find comfort knowing that Corporal Jeffrey Robert Standfest will forever be remembered in history as a patriotic American hero. I am hopeful my colleagues in Congress will join me in honoring this courageous American.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR GEORGIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. BOURDEAUX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address a serious problem facing our country, one that many of us have been dealing with firsthand since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis. As I do so, I also want to acknowledge that while we are headed in the right direction, earlier this week we crossed the solemn milestone of more than 600,000 American lives lost in the pandemic.

Today, I speak for millions of Americans from across the country who lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19. They then did exactly what they had been told to do and filed for unemployment insurance, and then they waited. But in Georgia, for many, that unemployment check never came.

Many of us have received a flood of calls and emails regarding this issue. Currently, my office is processing nearly 150 cases dealing with unemployment insurance, our second highest of any issue area, and the stories are truly frustrating.

There is a substitute teacher in my district who couldn't find work due to the COVID pandemic. When Georgia schools reopened to in-person instruction, she was unable to go back, as she lives with a high-risk family member. In April of 2020, she applied for unemployment benefits and received them for just a short amount of time before they mysteriously stopped, even though she is still eligible. She contacted my office in February, and we have sent five inquiries on her behalf, and not a word of response from the Georgia Department of Labor.

We have another person who was approved for benefits in July and began filing claims weekly but has never received a single cent. That person contacted our office in March. We sent four inquiries. Not a word in response from the Georgia Department of Labor.

Let me be clear: This isn't just the slow gears of government bureaucracy. Every day delayed means a human being has to decide between putting food on the table or keeping a roof over their heads. One such person my office has talked to had their car repossessed

and are on the verge of eviction because their government can't get it together.

Along with the rest of the Georgia Democratic congressional delegation, I sent a letter in March asking the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of the Inspector General to conduct an audit of the Georgia Department of Labor, and they recently replied.

What they found was that they couldn't figure out what was going on because Georgia couldn't even supply basic data on a number of key issues, including the timeliness of benefit distribution and the number of Georgians who requested the federally funded unemployment insurance supplement.

There are two other States which were unable to provide data on the timeliness of claims through all three Federal enhanced unemployment insurance programs. There were four other States which apparently did not report the required claims volume data. Georgia is the only State that was unable to provide data on either.

In other words, the Georgia Department of Labor stands out as uniquely unable, by either choice or competence, to report on its administration of enhanced unemployment benefits.

While factors such as initial understaffing and limited technology may have prevented the Georgia Department of Labor from processing claims, after over a year and after over 67 million in Federal dollars to help the State, extensive questions remain about how the agency plans to identify solutions to address the serious backlog that currently exists.

Georgians are lawfully entitled to the benefits they applied for. They are also entitled to transparency and accountability from their government. It is time for answers and for solutions.

CLARENCE CUMMINGS, JR. IS OLYMPIC BOUND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great honor and pride to announce that Clarence Cummings, Jr., a 21-year-old constituent of mine from Beaufort, South Carolina, will be an important part of the 2021 Olympic weightlifting team and their effort to bring home the first gold in over 60 years for the red, white, and blue.

Mr. Cummings' record is extensive, to say the least. He holds 23 American records in weightlifting. In his weight class, he holds the Junior World Record in the snatch, clean and jerk, and total.

He is world respected and well regarded for his feat in the clean and jerk.

He was the IWF Junior World Champion in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. In 2016 and 2017 he was the IWF Youth World Champion. He is also the Pan-American Champion for 2019 and 2020. I also

want to point out that Mr. Cummings accomplished all of these records before he turned 21.

I am immensely proud, as I know everyone in the Lowcountry is, of Mr. Cummings for all of the hard work and determination and dedication he has given to his sport and to his country.

I cannot wait to watch him win the gold medal for the United States in the Olympic Games in Tokyo. His journey is truly an inspiration to weightlifters, to athletes of all types, and to all Americans. I cannot be more proud.

God bless Mr. Cummings, the great State of South Carolina, and the United States of America.

REPEAL THE 2002 IRAQ AUMF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to end the war in Iraq. That is right, it is still going on. The 2002 AUMF that authorized military force in the Iraq war is still active, but today we will be voting on it, and it is long past due for us to vote on it. The original text of the 2002 AUMF was disturbingly broad and authorizes the United States military to enforce United Nations Security Council resolutions.

We have wasted \$750 million on the world's largest embassy in Iraq. When we get out of Iraq, it is time to put a for sale sign on that embassy. We may get only pennies on the dollar for that embassy, but that is better than sacrificing lives. We don't want another Libya; we don't want another Benghazi to happen in Iraq. It is time to scale down the embassy, put what is there for sale, and bring our troops and our diplomats home.

Saddam Hussein's regime was defeated in 2003. That is 18 years ago. Obama declared the Iraq war ended in 2011. But the AUMF was never repealed, and it gives a blank check to any current or subsequent administration to keep American soldiers in Iraq indefinitely and puts us at risk of getting into another war if things escalate.

By 2013, a majority of Americans believed that the Iraq war was a mistake. Approximately 4,586 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq, lost their lives since the beginning of the war, and 32,000 have been seriously wounded or injured in Iraq since the start of the war.

Although it is hard to know the estimated number of civilian casualties during this period of time in Iraq, it is somewhere between 800,000 and 1.3 million civilians. Think about that. A million civilians have died in this conflict.

It is time for us to leave. We owe it to our soldiers. They signed up to protect our country. They didn't sign up to be the world's policemen.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this repeal of the 2002 Iraq AUMF today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY DUFFY SHEAFFER BURTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Mary Duffy Sheaffer Burton, who passed away earlier this year. I certainly appreciated Mary's friendship and support over the last several decades. She was an incredible lady.

Mary made an indelible mark through her works and service to the Lancaster County community. She was a lifelong entrepreneur, a pioneer of the manufacturing industry in Lancaster, starting her first business in her garage, HDJ Company, in 1960, which became a leader in the design and manufacture of precision machining parts and would later become specialized medical devices and implants.

Her businesses would employ many individuals over the years, building lasting relationships with many, positively impacting their lives.

Mary received the Golden Micrometer Award from the Precision Machined Products Association of America, which is the highest honor of the industry in 2008 and was a recognition of her outstanding efforts and achievement.

She was just as devoted to improving her community, generously supporting, with her time and talents, many organizations which built Lancaster's thriving arts community, historical organizations, and organizations supporting women and children.

Mary is survived by her three children, who we express our sincerest condolences to, Duffy, Mary, and Edward, and by her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren.

We are sad at Mary's passing, but she brought happiness to the lives of so many, and for that we give thanks.

TAXING THE MIDDLE CLASS

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, President Biden is raising taxes on the middle class. Make no mistake about it. Middle-class Americans are feeling the squeeze of inflation as well—at the gas pump, at the grocery store, at the hardware store, and everywhere in between—as a result of the President's reckless Big Government spending plans.

This irresponsible \$6 trillion budget doubles down on taxing the middle class, breaking his pledge to only tax the wealthy. And we know he wants to tax the middle class because the President's budget would let the working- and middle-class tax hikes from the Tax Cut and Jobs Act expire.

□ 1045

By the way, from 2017 to 2019, the TCJA raised the median household income by over \$5,000. This was a real positive impact for families across the district that I represent, for families across the country. And it also led to the lowest poverty rate in history, lift-

ing more people out of poverty than ever before and historically slow unemployment.

But, apparently, Biden wants to throw away those policies that built the strongest economy that we have seen in generations and, instead, will force greater dependence on the Federal Government.

Even with all of the radical socialist policies included in the President's budget, their own projections indicate the worst economic growth of any decade since the Great Depression, at the cost of more than \$17 trillion added to the national debt.

Madam Speaker, the President says he wants to build back better, but I fear that he will end up building back bankrupt.

America can simply not afford his middle-class tax hikes and socialist spending wish list.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our God, we pause amidst the business and the busyness of this week and call on You. We are impatient to hear Your word. Hurry to our assistance.

May our prayers be like incense before You.

May the effort of our hands be as a sacrifice to You.

Set a guard over our mouths, O Lord. Watch over the words that come from our lips. Do not let the thoughts that emerge into speech be shaped with evil intent.

And do not allow our hearts to be inclined to compete in wrongdoing with those who wrong us.

But may our eyes be ever on You, for in You do we find shelter. And to You we entrust our whole selves.

We pray this in the strength of Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.